

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

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May 4, 2018

**RE: The 40<sup>th</sup> Statewide Investigating Grand Jury  
REPORT No. 1**

Dear Sir:

You have been named in a grand jury report. Please find enclosed the portion of the report which I have been authorized to release to you by the Supervising Judge of the 40<sup>th</sup> Statewide Investigating Grand Jury pursuant to 42 Pa. C.S. § 4552(e). You will also find the Court's order providing thirty (30) days to respond from today's date. Please be advised any response may be made public.

This matter may be discussed with your attorney. However, any additional disclosure may be subject to criminal penalties enumerated within the Grand Jury Act or applicable Pennsylvania law.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. J. Dye", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**DANIEL J. DYE**  
Senior Deputy Attorney General  
Criminal Law Division  
Criminal Prosecutions Section

CC: File; OAG CPS; OAG BCI  
The Honorable Norman A. Krumenacker, III

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

<b>IN RE:</b>	<b>: SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA</b>
	<b>: 2 W.D. MISC. DKT. 2016</b>
<b>THE FORTIETH STATEWIDE</b>	<b>:</b>
	<b>: ALLEGHENY COUNTY COMMON PLEAS</b>
<b>INVESTIGATING GRAND JURY</b>	<b>: CP-02-MD-571-2016</b>
	<b>:</b>
	<b>: NOTICE NO. 1</b>

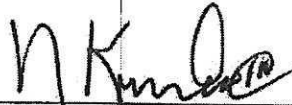
**ORDER AND NOTICE**

**AND NOW** this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2018, pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S.A. § 4552 (e), the Court finds that Report 1 of the 40<sup>th</sup> Statewide Investigating Grand Jury is critical of certain individuals. The Court finds that these individuals may be characterized as: having engaged in child sexual abuse; the enablers of a person or persons who engaged in child sexual abuse; individuals who violated a duty to safeguard the welfare of children; or, a combination of some or all of the above.

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Attorney for the Commonwealth shall provide a copy of this order to any living party so named. The provision of this order shall constitute sufficient notice.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that individuals so named shall have 30 days to file a sealed response with the Court, and provide a copy to the Attorney for the Commonwealth.

BY THE COURT,



\_\_\_\_\_  
NORMAN A. KRUMENACKER, III  
Supervising Judge  
Fortieth Statewide Investigating Grand Jury

## Father Stephen E. Jeselnick

### Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1951
YEAR OF DEATH:	N/A
ORDINATION:	May 20, 1977

### Employment/Assignment History

5/01/1976	Associate, Our Lady of the Americas, Conneaut, PA
6/03/1977	Granted full faculties of the Diocese of Erie
9/06/1977	Faculty, Venango Christian HIGH SCHOOL w/residence at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Oil City, PA
2/09/1987	Requests new assignment/residence. Wanted campus ministry
6/23/1978	Associate, St. Brigid and Campus Minister, Allegheny College w/Father William Karg
1/12/1980	Requests to be assigned to Notre Dame, IN (Holy Cross)
6/19/1980	Associate, St. Michael, Greenville, PA
7/31/1980	Appointed Defender of the Bond/Advocate for the Tribunal
3/31/1981	Bishop Watson agrees/recommends to release to Notre Dame, IN
6/02/1981	Accepted into Graduate Candidate Program at Notre Dame
11/06/1982	Withdraws voluntarily from Holy Cross, IN (Novitiate)
12/03/1982	Permitted to minister in Denver, CO, for a six-month assignment by Bishop Murphy
12/10/1982	Accepted by Archbishop Casey, Denver, CO
12/18/1982	Assigned to St. Mary's, Littleton, CO
Spring 1983	Re-assigned to Shrine of St. Anne, Arvada, CO
3/18/1983	Requests to enter/serve as Military Chaplain
4/08/1983	Bishop Murphy approves appointment to Military
5/13/1983	Requests incardination into Diocese of Colorado Springs, CO
9/12/1985	Incardination denied; Requests Leave of Absence
10/10/1985	Colorado Springs withdraws their faculties
11/5/1985	Requests permission to enter Air Force to be Chaplain and Additional Leave of Absence
4/1/1986	Requests to enter Archdiocese of Military
8/11/1986	Residence at Ecclesia Center, Erie, PA
10/03/1986	Parochial Vicar, St. Catherine, DuBois, PA; Chaplain, DuBois Medical Center; and Father Brugger's weekend assistant at Sigel and Corsica, PA
4/21/1987	Archdiocese Military endorses for Active Duty
11/18/1996	Military Archdiocese to facilitate the change from active to



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7/14/1997  
5/01/2014

reserve; the following month the Military endorses for inactive  
reserve duty  
Veterans Administration Hospital, Baltimore, MD  
Faculties revoked

## Summary

Father Stephen E. Jeselnick began service in the Diocese of Erie in May 1977, and it is unclear when he officially retired.

A review of the Diocese's files on Jeselnick reflected no abuse of children under the age of 18 and therefore he was not reportable under the guidelines established by the Church in 2002. This "*Charter for the Protection of Young Children and Young People*" was established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Jeselnick's file only listed two known victims and both were over the age of legal adulthood.

The same cannot be said, however, for three of Jeselnick's victims who were not included in the Diocese's files. The Grand Jury heard in-person testimony from three members of a family who each testified to their abuse at the hands of Jeselnick. Their accounts of Jeselnick's abuse included genital fondling, oral, and anal sex. This occurred in the late 1970's when Jeselnick was stationed at St. Brigid in Meadville. All three men and several of their sisters testified that Jeselnick and a previously unidentified Deacon would come to their house and get intoxicated with their parents. Once the adults were sufficiently drunk, Jeselnick would find the boys, who were usually alone, and prey upon them. The three men testified that their mother worked for the parish and would sometimes take the boys to work with her. Jeselnick would sexually violate them both at home and on church grounds, and this abuse still haunts them to this day.

No record of this family's abuse were located in the Diocesan files because the abuse was never reported to the Diocese and these victims only came forward in 2017. When they did come forward, the Diocese directed them to the Crawford County District Attorney's Office. In early 2017, both the Diocese and its law firm had been notified that any and all incoming child sexual assault cases were to be referred to the attention of the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. However, it was only after a family member reached out to a local newspaper reporter that they were referred to the Office of Attorney General.

In 2014 the newly appointed Bishop of Erie, Lawrence Persico, received a letter from Jeselnick requesting a letter of suitability for ministry. After reviewing his file and doing an internet search, Persico denied Jeselnick's faculties as a priest and informed him that he will never again be granted permission to serve in public ministry.

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